Nation

Volume 5, No. 2 • December 19, 1997

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THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (CHIEFS)

My usual Christmas editorial is usually about the concepts of sharing with those less fortunate than ourselves. I think by now everyone has the message since I've been hearing about the good works done in many communities. Next year I'll be covering some of them to give credit where credit is due.

This Xmas, however, I would like to talk about another kind of sharing. It seems that some have forgotten the sharing of decisions affecting the Cree people.

It may not be a priority to the chiefs but this is an issue that must be addressed without delay. As the old car product ad saying goes, "you can pay me a little now or you can pay me a lot later." This refers to the fact that it is easier to change the oil or car radiator fluid than it is to replace an engine or radiator.

It was a long, hard, costly fight. One the Crees will be facing again. Hydro-Quebec has announced its intentions to look at the possibilities of diverting the Great Whale and/or Ruperts Rivers into La Grande. I can also remember how much the Crees spent fighting the project. Those millions of dollars were well spent. It put the Crees in a position few Native peoples have been in, that of a position of power to take to task the governments and corporations. This is one fight that we could stop in its tracks before it gets out of hand both in time and money.

Just what am I getting into here, you might ask? What I am talking about is the fact that the Whapmagoostui people, even as you read this, have already started to tour the United States to begin protecting the land. They are living up to their responsibilities as citizens of the Cree Nation in a traditional manner. They are laying the groundwork for the fight and reactivating the network.

In comparison, the chiefs and councils of the communities that would be affected by the diversion of the Ruperts River have not spoken. They have not given their people a chance to speak out, as did Whapmagoostui in its community referendum.

There's a line from an old 60's or 70's song about Natives that went, "Let my people go," in the chorus. These days perhaps we should change that to: "Let my people speak."

Once again I will point out that the cost of the Whapmagoostui referendum was $500. Far cheaper than the amount of money it will take to play catch-up later on in the battle to save Cree land. This of course assumes that the Cree chiefs in those communities wish to save the land. If not then this silence could be taken as an indication of a backroom-deals mentality.

In either case it comes down to one thing; time has passed and silence is deafening compared to the cry of the Whapmagoostui First Nation.

The sharing of the power of decisions that affect all Crees and the responsibilities that we all have as citizens of the Cree Nation are being ignored. Democracy must be guarded jealously by the citizen lest it disappear. If the silence of the chiefs is something that you disagree with then it is your responsibility to act on it as a citizen. Doing nothing is giving up on those responsibilities.

by Will Nicholls

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ON THE COVER
MERRY XMAS!!!
photo: Neil Diamond
design: Katerina Cizek

LES NOTES DES REZ

Nationites conducting their "affairs"

In honour of Bill 101 and this being our 101st issue, we hereby re christen this column...drum roll please, Les Notes Des Rez. Mercy.

If you're like most of our readers who turn to the back pages first, you may have read the letter (See page 6) from "Crees who dare to be Free (but not free enough to sign their names to letters)."

Thank you for your kind letter, Free Crees. But I'm afraid you misunderstood the Inter-Office Affairs reference in our 100th issue Index. But don't feel bad. You're not the only ones with filthy minds. Even the usually staid CBC radio show Home Run jumped on the story as soon as the issue came out. Ernie and Alex were questioned about the affairs on live radio. They, of course, didn't sink to their level like I'm doing with you.

What we meant by "affairs" was business affairs. For instance, I might do a few "publicity shots" for one of my colleagues. Alex might "edit a piece" on someone's bio. Will might "lend a hand" for someone in need 'cause that's the kind of guy he is, a stand-up guy.We don't do these deals because we're friends, we do them 'cause we're business people. And who better to "work" with than people you "know" and who know what they're doing.

So in answer to your questions: Everyone is involved in these "affairs." The female to male, male to male, female to female ratios are just too damn complex to calculate. As is the Native to non-Native ratio.

So, yes, these affairs are for real. They are not figments of our imaginations. They are not fantasies. And, yes, we are very lucky.

I hope that answers your final question on why these affairs were never mentioned in our "esteemed" magazine. As you can see they're not very juicy affairs. I apologize for stalling your "running motors." And I have passed on your greeting to the "babes" in our office. By the way, your offer to participate in a "switch" is disgusting. We don't even know who you are or where you've been. Even if we wanted to, we probably wouldn't have time for it anyway. It takes more than one of us to "lay out" the paper you know.

If it makes you feel any better, there was one occasion at a "*Nation* party" when a staff member with some peanut butter and one of our four-legged brothers.....

by Ndiamon

the Nation

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NORTHERN BATTLES LOCAL STORE INTO GROUND

Kevin Hatt spends his days twiddling his thumbs in Sandy's Corner Store wondering where all the customers went.

Everything was going great just two years ago for the little Cree-owned convenience store that sits right on the shore of the mighty Great Whale River in Whapmagoostui.

Sandy's had 22 employees, almost all Natives. Business was good enough that the store gave discounts to Elders, trappers and people on welfare, and had enough left over to sponsor community events.

Then the vicious competition started and everything went horribly wrong. The huge Northern Store just down the road, once owned by the ancient Hudson's Bay Co., wanted a bigger slice of the action.

The Northern Store, part of a vast chain of 160 outlets across Canada, was facing new competition of its own from even bigger U.S.-based chains like Wal-Mart which were aggressively marketing to the North.

Everyone suddenly recognized there's money to be made from Native people. And it's no different in Whapmagoostui.

A brutal price war erupted pitting Sandy's against Northern. Today, food prices have plummeted 15 to 30 per cent. Customers benefitted, but after two years of going head-to-head with the corporate giant, Sandy's is flat on its back and taking a 10-count.

Each and every time Sandy's lowered its prices, Northern matched it and for good measure went a few cents cheaper. Each time Sandy's offered a promotion or donation, Northern would do the same. With its deep pockets, how could Northern lose?

"This store used to be packed in the night-time. Now it's like a ghost town," said Hatt, who's been manager of Sandy's for 13 years and himself once worked for Northern. Sandy's had to let go half its staff.

"It's just a steady aggression. It's no longer profitable to stay in business."

Northern denies it wants to put Sandy's in the morgue. It even denies there's a price war. "It's a case of maybe being a little bit of a cry-baby," said Bill Moore, general manager of Northern's Quebec operations.

Moore said Northern has lowered its prices because of competition from the local co-op and mail-order stores in Val d'Or.

"I wouldn't classify it as a war. I would classify it as honest competition."

"IT'S A FULL-BLOWN WAR"

Even in the cut-throat world of retailing, there are rules. Some of them are spelled out in the federal Competition Act, which outlines unfair business tactics.

For example, the Act says it's illegal to sell products "at prices unreasonably low" simply to put your competitor out of business. It is also illegal for a chain to sell products cheaper in one store than in other stores simply to eliminate competition. This is called predatory pricing and it's especially wrong if done by a large company abusing its dominant market position.

One Northern manager scoffed when asked about the Competition Act: "I'm just wondering if you think competition is unfair." But Hatt thinks he might have a case. To him, it's obvious Northern has specifically targeted Sandy's, copying every discount or promotion he dreams up to improve business.

If Sandy's goes out of business, Hatt warns Whampagoostui residents the low prices won't last as Northern jacks up prices to make up for lost income.

"I can relate with what he's going through," said Jack Quinn, manager of Mistissini's Meechum Store, which won a price war against Northern a few years ago. "They'll match you or go a cent under you."

Quinn didn't back down from the fight and Northern eventually packed its bags and left town. Quinn said one thing saved Meechum's hide: "We wouldn't be here today without the tremendous support in the community."

This is one area where Sandy's has been having a little trouble. Hatt is upset with the lack of support from the local Cree band, which he says hasn't done much to help Sandy's. He's also heard some customers switched to Northern because they were jealous of owner Moses Sandy's success.

But Hatt says there's a bigger issue here: the community's control over its own economy. "This store is something we built together, the whole community. It's a full-blown war and we can't fight a war alone against Northern."

by Alex Roslin

PRICE WAR RAGES IN WHAPMAGOOSTUI

	Sandy's *Great Whale*	Northern *Great Whale*	Northern *Waskaganish*	Northern *Inukjuak*	Sandy's *('95 prices)*
Loaf of bread	$1.88	$1.79	$1.99*	$1.87	$2.69
1L Grandpre milk	2.59	2.49	2.45	2.47	2.75
Dozen eggs (medium)	2.72	2.79	2.69	3.19**	3.19
1L Oasis orange juice	2.55	2.49	2.75	2.79	3.09
Toilet paper (22 pack)	10.49	10.79	11.99	11.49	14.39
Diapers (24 pack)	12.10	12.99	13.45	15	13.99
Hours open/week	78	69	45.5	57	78

** The Waskaganish Northern store's prices go down when the winter road is in.*
*** This price is for large eggs. The store doesn't sell medium size.*

Sandy's has better prices and hours than Northern in other communities not accessible by road, but that's not good enough to do business in Great Whale. Notice how prices have fallen since '95.

Yes, we are lucky

Letter to *The Nation*:

With special attention to Mr. Ndiamon:

Just got our hands on the copy of the 100th issue. Bravo! Two thumbs up for *The Nation*! As you know, the postal strike is still on, so the fax will have to do for now.

Let's get down to business: the reason for this letter, namely *The Nation* Index reports from the 100th issue.

As reported in your esteemed magazine: Number of Inter-Office affairs at *The Nation* office: 7

Number of *Nation* employees in 1995: 15

Ratio of Females to Males: 9:6

Ratio of Native to non-Native: 8:7

(It seems the guys are having more fun than the girls! Great odds, man!)

We truly believe that you, Mr. Ndiamon, are the only one with enough... err... brass, to dish out the skinny (unless one of the other editors would like to surprise us for once). This index is quite a piece of work which is starting rumour records all over the coast and inland. So tell us, your ever-faithful readers.

-Who is involved in these reported inter-office affairs?

-What is the female-to-male ratio of these affairs?

-What is the Native to non-Native ratio of these affairs?

You have got our motors running *Nation*. At the very least, inform us on the dates of these so-called affairs. Are they for real? Figments of your imagination? Fantasies? What? You guys are lucky. We wish we were employees there. We too would like to have the pleasure of working closely with the female associates of your esteemed mag (snicker, snicker). We would love to participate in a switch. Say hello to the babes, fellas.

By the by Mr. Ndiamon, how is it we have never heard of the inter-office affairs in the REZ NOTES? Is it not the purpose of the NOTES that you inform the readers of the... how did you put it... ah yes, the juiciest stories?

You have knowingly opened a can of worms that we, the beloved readers, would like to know more about. We dare you *Nation* to answer to your readers. After all, you brought up the subject.

From Crees who dare to be free (we finally understand your motto!)

Juicy stories

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am writing to you this day to question your consistent articles concerning the Cree Nation of Wemindji. I find it alarmingly distasteful that a negative light is constantly being flooded on our community. Since my return to Wemindji in December of 1996, I have grown to respect, enjoy and even love the people here. They are a people who despite any regular human faults continue to be human... Sharing... honesty... kindness... respect. This is the essence of what makes humans humane. Traditional values are stressed on a daily basis. Although we are not Shangri-La by any stretch of the imagination, we as a community are constantly in the daily grind of bettering ourselves. Not only for ourselves but also for future generations yet to come.

Personally, I am in great support of Crees coming together as a Strong Nation. But if communities, trying to better themselves, are constantly in the Native media with a negative image, then this is the image adopted by those who

continued on page 31

Maamuitaau

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1998.

BEST WISHES TO OUR FRIENDS AND CLIENTS IN JAMES BAY. WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND THAT 1998 IS A YEAR OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

TVA show singles out Cree HQ worker

Not many Crees work at Hydro-Quebec despite the 1986 La Grande Agreement guaranteeing 160 jobs by Jan. 1, 1996. Today the number of Cree workers is low: only seven permanent employees, 12 temporary workers and 11 workers subject to recall if positions become available. This is out of a workforce of about 20,000.

The problem may be more than language, a lack of training, lack of willingness to work for Hydro-Quebec or any of the reasons that both Cree leadership and Hydro-Quebec talk about.

The Montreal TV network aired a story on its show called En Direct on Dec. 4 talking about Chisasibi residents not paying Hydro's electric bills. During the show, Susan Duchesne, a former non-permanent Hydro-Quebec worker, complained that Hydro-Quebec had discriminated against her by laying her off, while keeping the less-experienced Chisasibi Cree Jacqueline Lessard. On the TVA show, Duchesne asked in French, "Why do Indians get special treatment?" Also during the TV show Duchesne clearly mentioned Lessard's name and gave out her home address, an action that has Lessard worried.

Since the show, Lessard had been treated differently by a few of her co-workers. After a discussion with her boss the situation has "gotten better," according to Lessard.

Lessard doesn't want other Crees to have these types of problems or the sense of isolation that she experienced. She attempted to get help and assistance from her union and her Band Council but none was forthcoming. She felt she was left to fend for herself.

Some present and former Cree workers are looking for a monitoring system to look at how Cree workers are doing in the utility.

Lessard's brother, Peter Pelchat, worked for Hydro in the past. He said the lack of a monitoring system contributes to the high turn-over of Cree employees. "There are only a few Crees working for Hydro. I felt very alone at times and this is why I left the company. There has to be a system in place where we can count on assistance."

Hydro-Quebec has culture awareness sessions they give to co-workers of Cree employees, but admits it can't control what people think. Rene Arsenault, a Hydro-Quebec spokeswomen, said when they heard of the TVA show they had a quick response. They went on the show the next day to explain the system in place at Hydro-Quebec. Hydro-Quebec during the show said its action in laying off Duchesne while keeping Lessard was in keeping with agreements between the Crees and Hydro-Quebec to end some of the hiring discrimination faced by the Crees.

"Lessard was worried because her address was given out," said Arsenault. "This is a sensitive situation. It is something that we at Hydro do not wish to see get out of hand. You know how easily these things can happen." Arsenault went on to say that when HQ heard of the potential problem it contacted Lessard's boss and asked how things were.

by William Nicholls

Great Whale referendum doesn't count: HQ

Whapmagoostui residents may have voted 92 per cent against any new hydro projects, but Hydro-Quebec still isn't convinced Crees really said, "NO."

"I'm aware there was a referendum," said Ghislain Ouellet, Hydro's executive vice-president, in an interview with *The Nation* last month.

"But I think the referendum was on the Great Whale project. We don't have in our approach to do the Great Whale project as it was conceived then."

Cree leaders have been denying there are or will be any negotiations on hydro projects with HQ, but Ouellet seems to think otherwise.

He said new hydro projects are on the agenda in discussions soon to get under way with Crees. The Cree Nation is represented by Roderick Pachano, Romeo Saganash and Steven Bearskin. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come is responsible for the discussions.

Ouellet said the discussions are aimed at improving relations between Crees and HQ. "Culturally, we have difficulty in understanding each other sometimes. The idea is to see if the ties between the two communities can be improved so both can be winners," said Ouellet.

"It's sure there is potential in James Bay (for new projects). It's certain that in the process of rapprochement we can discuss this."

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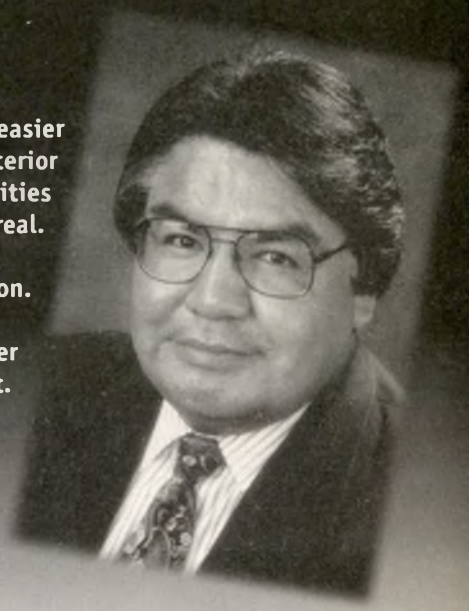

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BRIEFS

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Indian Legends and Poems

BY ALEX ROSLIN

I was concentrating on my smoked salmon penne during my weekly luncheon with the Queen at Il Cantinori in Lower Manhattan when "Liz" asked excitedly if I had anything in mind for this week's *Nation* book column.

books

As I tried to ignore the garlic on her breath, Her "Highness" (as she insists on being called after she's had a few) went on to rave about a book she had just read and absolutely loved.

Since her busy queenly duties allow her to read only one book per year, I was curious about the literary effort that impressed her so.

The book was "Indian Legends and Poems" by Margaret Sam-Cromarty of Chisasibi, and I went out to find a copy as soon as my helicopter brought me back to Montreal (*okay, that's enough of your delusions -Ed*)...

Margaret, whose beautiful writing has graced our pages for four years, has published a new book of poems, stories and legends in English and French. I loved reading the legends of spring and the golden eagle.

One of the shorter poems called "Canada Goose" stuck in my mind. It goes like this (*see p. 10 for more from the book*):

One day I tried to heal
A wounded Canada goose.
He was weak and had
nowhere to go.

It looked at me,
no tears in its eyes.
Like a marble stone
in grey and white.

With a sigh
It flung back its head.
Among the willows
it trembled to its knees.

It had no way of knowing
he had such
fierce pride
blazing in his eyes

INDIAN LEGENDS AND POEMS
BY MARGARET SAM-CROMARTY
D'ICI ET D'AILLEURS, VAL D'OR, 1997

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These stories are from Margaret Sam-Cromarty's new book, "Indian Legends and Poems."

The Handsome Stranger

Once in a northern village
people were making ready
to move away
for the spring hunt.

Now it was towards evening
when children at play began to shout,
"We see a stranger coming.
He is smartly dressed."
Indeed the stranger was striking.
No one seemed to know him.
The young girls hung around him.
So did the flies.

He was invited inside the tent.
The heat from the campfire
made the stranger uncomfortable.
Everyone wondered why.

Smiling at the girls
he went outside for some air.
The stranger left a wave of smell
and buzzing flies behind.

The young girls wanted him to stay,
but he left the way he came.
Soon he disappeared,
leaving the girls sad.

One of them followed his tracks
until they led to manure.
He had melted from the heat.
Flies buzzing around sang:

"Shit and old rags,
shit and old rags,
turned himself into a man."

The Man in the Moon

The moon looked like a ball.
I stretched out my arms,
I felt a thrill
by its shiny charms.
This is a tale
I heard from the lips
of my elders long ago,
and they wouldn't lie.

"Once," they said
(I listened to every word),
"Lived a young boy.
He journeyed into space."

He was very adventurous
and sometimes foolish.
He didn't always do
what he was told.
Things they said he did
were very strange.
It somehow led him
to go his own way.

He looked for new world
to hunt with his bow and arrows,
So he left his home
to find action elsewhere
With his sister dear
who shared his dreams with fear.
She was puzzled as they climbed a tall tree.
They found themselves in a strange place.

In this strange land
the boy saw a funny trail.
There was no one about
so he went and set a snare.

A strange sight met his eye:
The moon struggled in his snare.
The earth plunged in darkness
as the moon tried to get free.

He freed the dying moon,
giving it life to shine at night—
No more to roam into darkness
to guide the earth in its flight

It's a Cree legend
about creation,
But Indians claim
the boy is the man in the moon.

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A Boy Magician

As darkness danced shadows
in our cozy winter lodge,
my folks filled the hours,
holding me spellbound with a tale.

In wonder I would travel
with the primitive tribes
with an old grandmother
and her little grandson.

The grandson grew older
but did not grow taller.
All his life, he would be small.
Being a good hunter, he didn't mind at all.

It was time
of supernatural powers.
Only the old grandmother knew
her grandson had the power.

It was early winter
The chief's only daughter
wanted to get married
to the best hunter

The little man hunter
told his grandmother,
"I will try to win as my wife
the chief's pretty daughter."

One day the chief called
all the strongest and best hunters.
Little man hunter went too
only to be told not to enter.

With laughter
they made fun of him.
The chief, being wise,
said everyone was welcome.

Now the chief spoke:
"Who has the gift of the shaking tent?
Whoever has the power
wins my daughter as his bride."

One by one the young hunters
tried their luck.
Last came little man hunter.
He fell into a trance.

The tent shook and shook.
A shaking tent.
A truly gifted magician
who won the chief's daughter's hand.

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ANISCHAAUKAAMIKW
(James Bay Cree Cultural Institute)

LOGO COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Anischaaukaamikw Working Group is pleased to announce a regional competition to produce a logo for the new Cree entity, Anischaaukaamikw (James Bay Cree Cultural Institute).

This regional logo competition is open to all Eeyou Astchee individuals.

The final selection of a logo will be based on the design which in the opinion of the Anischaaukaamikw Working Group best reflects the meaning of anschaa, the root of Anischaaukaamikw, and which refers to the continuity of cultural traditions from generation to generation.

A prize of $700 will be awarded to the designer of the logo which is selected to become the logo of Anischaaukaamikw.

Individuals who are interested in participating in this regional competition are asked to submit their designs before January 15, 1998.

Please submit all logo designs to:
Mr. Kenny Mianscum, Coordinator
Anischaaukaamikw
C/o 207 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec
G0W 3C0

Tel: 418.745.3911
Fax: 418.745.3426

466, 3e Rue
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All the merchants of Place Le Chaînon would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the Holidays. Thank you for your support throughout the year!

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Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Part II

This is the second part of the interview held with Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come at the end of November. In it he looks at the future of the Cree language and culture, negotiations with the federal and provincial governments, and forestry.

by William Nicholls

***The Nation*: The Cree School Board just had a conference on Cree Language and Culture. What do you think of the CSB's Cree as a Language of Instruction Program overall?**

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come: There's room for improvement. The only way to maintain our language is if we introduce it in the schools but more importantly practice it at home. My deepest fear is when I hear a kindergarten teacher teaching the Cree language saying that half the kids who enroll in a particular school speak only English. That's something to be concerned about.

The onus then falls on the parents to instruct and communicate to their kids in their own language, which is Cree. So by the time they arrive and go into our school systems, hopefully they would be able to improve their vocabulary, etc. The school can only do so much. Yes, we need to train our teachers to be more aware and adapt that work into more acceptable or interesting ways. Like using computers as a way of encouraging the students to learn their language. It cannot be taken for granted that our kids will speak the language.

I'm excited when I think about it because the conference improved awareness for all who attended. There was a misconception that our language was thriving. There is a possible danger of losing our language. So the biggest responsibility will fall on the younger parents and how they raise their kids.

As to the culture itself, well, you can never teach your whole culture in the classroom itself, but you can certainly adapt it. I think the school board has done a lot of work. In geography, they are putting Cree history in there. There's the economics that's adapted also. So you can see there's a curriculum development and awareness of who we are, where we came from and how we fit into this whole society. In the textbooks we see them adapted and the MEQ (Ministre Education Quebec) has approved them. So in that sense people will be more aware of their own culture, their own history, geography and hopefully their own literature.

I think our biggest problem for the Cree language and culture is the lack of material. We have Cree language teachers who can produce the material. The problem is to print it and do it in Cree. Maybe you'll be the first ones to do it. But right now every paper you see sitting on desks of the leadership and in our homes is in English or French. So you teach your kids about a language and try to preserve it but you don't see it at home. There's no way you're going to preserve it or encourage it.

In the end the onus, I think, will fall on the parents. Unfortunately we'll probably end up blaming an entity we've created to promote and enhance our language.

Let's head back to the land for another issue, forestry. I understand the Grand Council of the Crees is taking some steps to address the Cree concerns such as a court case. Could you expand on some of that strategy?

The Grand Council has finalized the seventh draft of the forestry case. This is not to say we haven't filed anything on forestry. In the Coon Come court cases, there's a section that deals with forestry. But the main court case, we'll be doing a community tour in the week of the 12th, 13th and 14th of January to inform the trappers and communities of what's in the court case.

The thing that needs to be understood and addressed is the fact that there are conflicting rights, one for the developers and one for the Crees who have the right to fish, hunt and trap. This is the harvesting right. You have to find a mechanism to reconcile those conflicting interests and rights of a developer and harvester.

To achieve that, what is the goal or the vision of the Crees on forestry? Is it to oppose totally forestry? Is it to go all out or is it that we stand on the principle of sharing?

> "We will pressure the governments to sit down with the Crees at the table to set out the rules of co-existence."

Sharing is sharing. It means you should receive something. So do the Crees want a share in the wealth of the land? If that is the case then the strategy will be different as opposed to one where we oppose any type of development. That's the thrust I think and only the Crees can answer that. But I think we will file a court case. We will pressure the governments to sit down with the Crees at the table to set out the rules of co-existence. The rules of compatibility between a way of life versus development. Also how can the Crees benefit and share in the wealth of the land. Those issues can only be dealt with and achieved based on the position that the Crees take.

The other governments will not sit down with you if you don't take a hammer and hit them over the head. You will not get what you want if you don't create a leverage.

Crees never received anything because some developer out of the goodness of their hearts gave it to them. They'll never get anything like that. So I believe the Crees will have to take a strong stand and be able to file these court actions. Go all out and pressure these governments. They have to have to deal with Crees. The Crees do not accept status quo. The Crees want change in policies. The Crees want a change in the relationship between the Cree Nation and the federal or provincial governments and the developers. We will seek and pressure the governments using the

Cont'd on page 15

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ANISCHAAUKAAMIKW

(James Bay Cree Cultural Institute)

POSITION AVAILABLE

POSITION: Administrative Assistant, Fundraising Campaign
TERM: January 1998 to March 31, 1999
LOCATION: Montreal

BACKGROUND:

The Cree Nation is in the process of establishing a new institution dedicated to the promotion and protection of Cree language and culture. The primary objective of this new institution is to improve the quality and increase the quantity of culture/language programs and services delivered to the Cree communities. To obtain the financial resources required to establish this new institution the Cree Nation, through Anischaaukaamikw, will undertake an ambitious fundraising campaign which will be directed at the corporate, philanthropic and individual sectors. A fundraising support office has been established within the office of the Grand Council of Eeyou Astchee and will be operational in early January 1998. The support office requires the services of an Administrative Assistant.

DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

Working closely with, and under the supervision of the Fundraising Advisors, the Administrative Assistant will be responsible for the efficient day-to-day operations of the Anischaaukaamikw Fundraising Office. S/he will:

- assist the Advisors in scheduling interviews with potential campaign donors,
- facilitate communication between the fundraising campaign co-chairs, the Anischaaukaamikw Working Group and potential donors,
- follow up on pledges for contributions,
- maintain records of financial contributions,
- will ensure the proper deposit of contributions into appropriate bank accounts,
- will maintain all required correspondence with donors.

The successful candidate will have proven administrative/secretarial and bookkeeping experience. Preference will be given to those candidates who are comfortable working in a trilingual environment (Cree/English/French).

DEADLINE:

All applications must be submitted by Jan. 2, 1998.

Interested Applicants are invited to submit letters of interest and resumes to:

Mr. Kenny Mianscum, Coordinator
Anischaaukaamikw
C/o 207 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec, G0W 3C0
Fax: 418.745.3426

judicial process and even do a campaign to express what is being done to our lands and how we are impacted. This in order to be able to get to a certain table where we can start talking turkey. And to get to that level it will require standing in unity and understanding this is our mission.

To achieve that goal this is what needs to be done right now. The court case and to pressure the governments. To develop strategies, some that will not be acceptable to certain people, but we have to do it to put pressure on the governments. If people understand that we will have achieved a certainty as to our future.

Right now we have to continue creating uncertainty in regards as to the way development takes place. Create uncertainty as to investment in Cree territory unless the Crees are involved. The Crees will push to be full participants and receive benefits from the extraction of natural resources. But they will not accept being dispossessed, being driven of the land and only live in communities or reserves called Category I lands. This is our land and we will benefit because our objective is to be self-governing and self-sufficient. We don't want to rely on government handouts. We will set up our own national government, our own laws. We will use our traditions and customs and codify the way in which development will take place. As a Nation, have taken that position. That we are Eeyou, we are a People. We are self-governing and we will fulfill that vision.

But we cannot do that right now with the present policies, with the present attitudes of the governments, with the present relationship that we have right now. We are going to change that because we are going to go all out. We are going to serve notice that we are going to achieve this not only to the government but also to the business community. We'll go to the private sectors and tell them, look business as usual is unacceptable. This is where you want to go and this is what we are going to do. If we have to disrupt your business, so be it. But we are going to seek that vision. We are going to be self-governing. You can help us along or we can make life difficult.

You hear some of this at the national level. You've worked there and have been involved with national politics.

Yes, I've been there as one of the people at the main table with the premiers, at the Calgary Declaration. The Calgary Declaration, itself, I felt was an attempt by the premiers to find an accommodation with Quebec. My concern is when you find an accommodation with Quebec, it can diminish our Aboriginal and treaty rights. Our rights can be subject to Quebec's unique status. I'm concerned with creating two classes of people, the First Nations, who are subjected to Quebec's self-declared rights, and the other First Nations, who are under the federal regime. The Calgary Declaration itself certainly did not recognize Aboriginal government or institutions. It only recognized federal, provincial and territorial governments. So it started off with a flaw. The Calgary Declaration creates an imbalance. It's a distortion of history.

Being involved in these negotiations we were trying to create a balance to recognize Aboriginal and treaty rights in a formal clause. We looked for something that would have recognition of First Nations. We succeeded in assuring that First Ministers' conferences that involve amendments to the constitution will involve the full participation of Aboriginal peoples. That was our main achievement at that meeting.

The other achievement was the policy of off-loading all these programs to the provinces (which is a way for) the federal govern-

Cont'd on page 27

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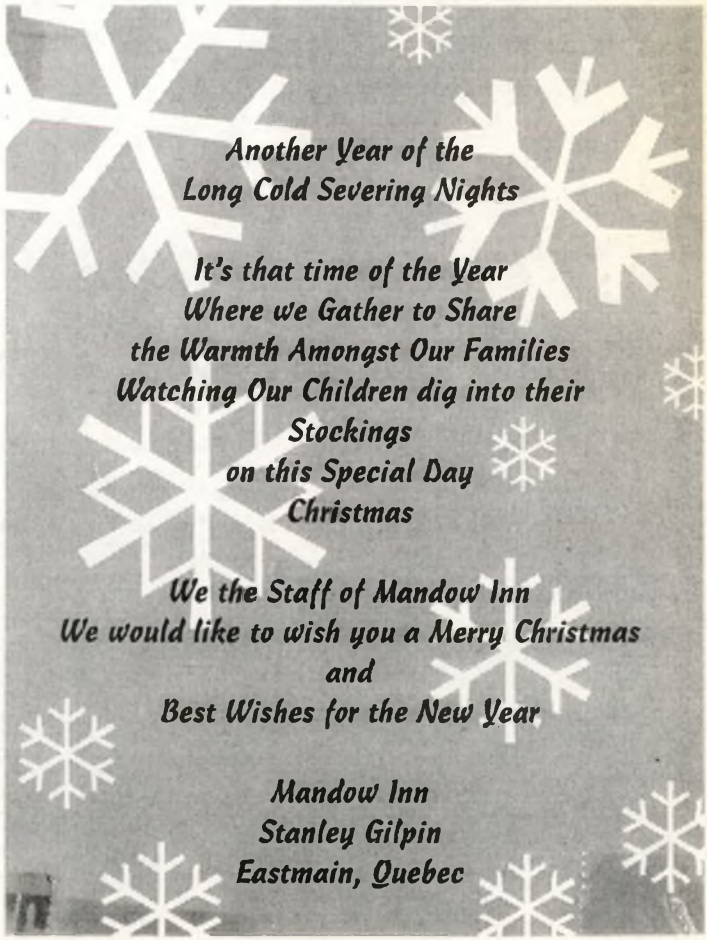
Another Year of the
Long Cold Severing Nights
It's that time of the Year
Where we Gather to Share
the Warmth Amongst Our Families
Watching Our Children dig into their
Stockings
on this Special Day
Christmas
We the Staff of Mandow Inn
We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas
and
Best Wishes for the New Year
Mandow Inn
Stanley Gilpin
Eastmain, Quebec

Dogs in Waskaganish

Last winter I stayed for three months in Waskaganish and I found that stray dogs are a problem there. I did a small door-to-door survey (of 132 people) to find out more about the problem. Possibly it is a problem in other communities too.

Dogs used to be useful and respected working animals. Because people were dependent on their dogs, they took good care of them. Now a dog is not needed any more. Since the snowmobile is preferred to dog-sleds, there are dogs in Waskaganish that nobody wants. Only some Elders use their dogs the whole year round for hunting.

In May 1996, the Waskaganish band decided that all dogs should be vaccinated and registered by their owners and should be chained or under control. A dog which is not wearing a tag is considered stray and is supposed to be captured and killed by a dog-catcher (a dog catcher was not yet hired in the winter of '96-97).

My guess is about 10 per cent of the dogs were actually registered last winter. The by-law was not enforced and 53 per cent in the survey didn't know about it. Most people (76 per cent) thought there was a problem with some dogs in Waskaganish.

One in three people said they have a dog just to feed it leftovers and hardly pay any attention at all to the dog. If this dog is chained, it gets bored and can get behavioural problems. If the dog is loose, it gets into fights with other dogs and it mates. Lots of puppies are born this way.

The Crees are famous for their respect toward animals. A respectful solution is needed to the problems with dogs about. In the survey, 50 per cent of dog owners said their would have their dog neutered if it was possible, even if it cost $100. If dogs were sterilized, there would be less fighting and less puppies born. It would save the band time and money because less strays would have to be killed.

A lot of people wondered what the use is of keeping a dog if it isn't useful any more. New uses for dogs can be found. I'm sure many people could be inspired to take better care of their dogs and start *doing* things again with their dogs, with respect.

MARIKE VIJVER, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST
GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

MAN'S BEST FRIEND?

Per cent of people who like dogs: 55
% of dog owners who don't like dogs: 33
% of people who have one or more dogs: 43
Ratio of male dogs to female: 3:2
Biggest problem with dogs: can be dangerous
2nd biggest problem: there are too many dogs
% of dogs loose at least part of the time: 62
% dog owners who give their dog a lot of attention: 40
% who spend hardly any time with their dog: 33

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and a Happy New Year
to all our customers!

Have a Great Holiday!

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May this
Christmas bring joy, love
and peace and Best Wishes
for the New Year
from all of us
at JBCCS.

Neoskweskau Memorial Arena

Cree Nation of Mistissini, Quebec

On behalf of the Neoskweskau Memorial Arena and the Organizing Committee, it is our pleasure to officially invite you to participate in:

Neoskweskau Memorial Arena 11th Annual Invitational Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament January 22, 23, 24 & 25, 1998

Over $26,000 in prize money and awards to be given away to four (4) different categories as follows:

CATEGORIES	TEAMS	INSCRIPTION FEE	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
Men's Class "A"	6	$800.00	$6,000.00	$3,500.00
Men's Class "B"	8	$700.00	$4,000.00	$2,000.00
Old-Timers 35+	8	$600.00	$3,000.00	$1,500.00
Broomball	8	$700.00	$4,000.00	$2,000.00

**All prize amounts are estimates. The amounts are subject to change depending on the number of teams that register. The first teams to register and pay the registration fees will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS. All other teams will be placed on stand-by.*

The schedule will be ready Tuesday, January 20, 1998. The deadline for teams to inform the Neoskweskau Memorial Arena of their arrival is Monday, January 19 before 1:00 pm.

The Organizing Committee of this tournament will not make any changes in the schedule after this deadline date. There will be a $200.00 penalty fee charged to the team requesting a schedule change, payable before their first game.

***** ALL TEAMS MUST SEND THEIR INSCRIPTION FEE IN FULL BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE!***

Deadline to register: Friday, January 16, 1998.

For more information contact: Errol Mianscum, Arena Manager (418) 923-3248
Jean-Baptiste Loon, Reacreation Coordinator (418) 923-3461
Robie Petawabano, Assistant Coordinator (418) 923-3461
Arena Fax: (418) 923-2430 - Recreation Office Fax (418) 923-3115

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stmas to a Happy New Year,
on.

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Close
to you

The Twilight Zone

Your Horoscope

By Thelma & Louise

"Astrology is a complex science which can only be mastered by the very best." There you go! So Thelma and Louise invite you to take a glimpse of the character type of each sign, which will enable you to learn more about yourself and others. This might make it easier for the common folks to accept their limitations and weaknesses. The reader might be amused by the contents but nonetheless there is much truth to what we tell you because we know what we are talking about.

Thelma & Louise

Aquarius, Honest, Loveable, Humane, Open-Minded, Detached.

Mr. Aquarius: May spend all evening talking about the world in general. Is likely to pick a female with a keen sexual appetite for he believes that sex should occupy a part of one's life and not dominate it. Will grow restless and uncomfortable when someone disapproves of his behavior.

Ms. Aquarius: probably belongs to women's lib and flattery does not impress her. Prefers an honest and open approach. Rarely rushes into marriage and requires much patience. Sometimes cold, she endeavors to reform her man.

Pisces, Kind, Gentle, Sensitive, Unlucky, Often Moody.

Mr. Pisces: Sometimes likes to hide his true-self. But is hard to resist, being naturally charming and appealing. He may use his loveable puppy dog eyes as a weapon. Mr. Pisces is a dreamer who possesses a childlike grace. He will be shaky in matters of money.

Ms. Pisces: She has much loving kindness and is a gentle woman. Possesses a strong and vivid imagination. A jealous streak might sometimes get her into trouble. Ms. Pisces is a romantic at heart as well as an incurable dreamer. Beware any man who values his freedom.

Aries, Energetic, Enthusiastic, Impulsive, Lives in the mind.

Mr. Aries: Will forever chase progress and new ideas. Is a go-getter and is particular about his looks and is meticulous with dress. Will spend most of his life searching for himself and his chosen path. Is passionate yet selfish. Will not listen to advice. Patience is not his trademark.

Ms. Aries: She has a bright and lively personality. Is a delight to meet socially. Ms. Aries can frequently attract a weaker male. Is sometimes domineering and overbearing. She enjoys sex. But if you go against her wishes: you are doomed my friend.

Taurus, Organized, Kind-Hearted, Hard-Working, Stubborn.

Mr. Taurus: Will not be hustled or bullied into a false position: He stands his ground. His dreams rarely lose touch with reality. Love for him begins early and goes on into late life. No one is more stubborn than a Taurean with his heels well and truly dug in. He is a loyal and loving person.

Ms. Taurus: Makes an excellent wife. Shines in the homemaking department. She is a motherly type. Is constantly afraid of being broke. She likes to know where she stands in a relationship. Is strongly attracted by two things: the opposite sex and food. She likes to over-indulge on occasions.

Gemini, Restless, Flexible, Clever, Expressive, Talkative.

Mr. Gemini: Longs for new interests and is impatient with routine. Very sociable person. Intellectual satisfaction is a driving force. Loved ones should refrain from interference, for he is best left to follow his own erratic path. He believes that there are two types of women: nice girls and the others.

Ms. Gemini: Needs people around her. Always on the look out for something to discuss or criticize. Her interests often prove to be an irresistible challenge. This person is loyal and sincere. Needs a romantic environment, good conversation and all the right compliments, or else you might just as well go home.

Cancer, Tenacious, Sensitive, Patient, Changeable.

Mr. Cancer: He is a possessive person when it comes to loved ones and ideas. Has a vivid imagination. Affections are deep and lasting. No distance, or period of time will weaken the ties. It is rare for a Cancer man to fall from the top once he reaches it.

Ms. Cancer: Is for the most part happiest when married at an early age, for only in close partnership can she truly fulfill herself. This female should be off limits unless you're prepared for a long and meaningful relationship. When disappointed withdraws into her dream-world.

Leo, Proud, Generous, Trusting, Domineering, Energetic.

Mr. Leo: Always makes a good impression right off the bat. This individual makes a warm and open friend. Nothing is too good for his loved ones. He needs plenty of love and admiration. Any female who wants him must remember this. He tends to be too generous.

Ms. Leo: Has a strong sex drive but will not settle for the back seat of a car. Likes the good things in life. Is likely to burn a hole in any man's pocket. Dancing may be popular with her because she possesses a natural grace. She is an extremely proud woman.

Virgo, Exact, Methodical, Intelligent, Discriminating.

Mr. Virgo: This type rarely lavishes affection and praise on anyone. Gives freely of his time and energy. Love never comes easily to him and it takes much to melt his heart. His partner will need to be a kind and understanding woman. Will often be thought of as cold.

Ms. Virgo: Is intelligent and critical of others including herself. She is not the domestic type. Has high standards and is fixed in what she believes to be right or wrong sexually. Can't be attracted easily and takes her sex seriously. When she says coffee, that's all you can expect.

Libra, Restless, Versatile, Intelligent, Talkative.

Mr. Libra: This man is noted for his keen sense of fairness. Has great charm and has genuine appreciation of what is good in others. Love is extremely important in his life, even in old age he will still be interested. He will sweep you off your feet with his expertise.

Ms. Libra: She finds it difficult to hurt other's feelings and the word "no" comes too infrequently. Ms. Libra makes an excellent wife. Her entire world will revolve around her man. Her love of harmony is strong and any display of temper will turn her off completely.

Scorpio, Independent, Passionate, Determined, Keen Likes & Dislikes.

Mr. Scorpio: Can immediately see the purpose and meaning of things which come under his penetrating eyes. It is impossible for him to feel indifferent about anyone or anything. No woman will find him an easy person to live with. Friends will belong to a tight, closed and exclusive circle.

Ms. Scorpio: Does not find it easy when it comes to personal relationships. It is most difficult for her to make allowances for the weaknesses of others. No wise male will play around with her affections. If you should hurt her and the opportunity of revenge presents itself, she will grasp it with both hands.

Sagittarius, Impatient, Curious, Impulsive, Restless.

Mr. Sagittarius: This individual is the truth-seeker and his probing mind may often offend some of his friends. Is a good and considerate lover but will not be tied down. Loves his freedom. Unable to keep still at any given time. He is one who can bring success out of failure.

Ms. Sagittarius: She's frank and open. She refuses to be changed. She finds it difficult to show her true colours. She needs a man who will not take offense every time she smiles and dances with another. She enjoys sex and is not hampered by inhibition. She insists on the truth.

Capricorn, Hard-Working, Reserved, Diplomatic, Ambitious.

Mr. Capricorn: Mr. Cap. is impressed by rank, wealth and breeding. He is an incorrigible flirt but this behavior is rarely sex-oriented. He needs a female who can offer reassurance when life goes against him. A born romantic and because of this he is never pushy when turned down.

Ms. Capricorn: Reaches her warmest peak when married. Could give unintentional offense by not minding her own business at times. When she gets down the only cure may be a change of environment, socializing with friends and an excessive dose of love.

Happy Holidays

Love... Thelma & Louise

(We are not headed for the canyon yet, see you in the New Year!)

Sometimes it's hard to tell how your man really feels about you. There are certain things he may do or say that can give you an idea of how important you are to him. Here are some examples of gifts he might give you this Christmas that will let you know if he's serious about you:

-Deantha

When he's in love

His & Her's matching towels
Trip to a romantic weekend getaway
Beautiful sexy lingerie
Bottle of Chanel No.5
Gold watch
Gold chain
Introduces you to his family as "the one"

CD soundtrack to your favorite movie

Takes you to a new spicy, exotic restaurant
New VCR
Burns his little black book for you

Leather boots
Ditches his buddies and rings in the New Year with you alone
Subscription to your favorite magazine
Silk blouse
Blown up photo of the two of you
Gift certificate to your favorite salon
Bottle of Champagne to celebrate together
Trip to Hawaii
Tickets to hockey game in Montreal
Silk pajamas
China set
Wine glasses
Jewellery box
Satin sheets
His heart

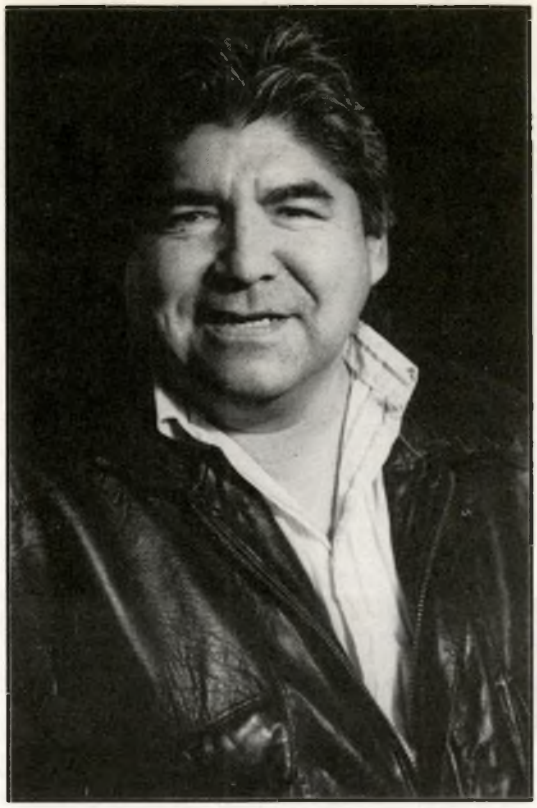
When he's not in love

Dish towels
Trip to the video store
Porno video
Bottle of Mr.Clean
Alarm clock
Tire chains for your car
Introduces you to his family as "the girl for me, for now"
Box set of Richard Simmons' "Sweatin to the Oldies" CDs
Yet another spice rack
Toaster oven
Spends Christmas Eve with his other girlfriend
Tube socks
Leaves a message saying he'll see you in the New Year, he's out with the guys
1998 Sports Illustrated pin up calendar
A Zellers jogging suit
Life size poster of himself in the buff
Hairdryer
Case of beer
Trip to Val d'Or
Tickets to Spice Girls concert
Cheap raggedy bathrobe
Paper plates
Coffee mug
Garbage can
Sleeping bag
His presence

CREE NATION OF
WEMINDJI

The Chief, Council and Community of Wemindji wish a Very Merry Christmas to all!

THE PEOPLE OF OUJE-BOUGOUMOU EXTEND THEIR BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1998 THROUGHOUT EENOU ASTCHEE & OTHER AREAS OF CANADA



CREE NEGOTIATION TEAM FOR THE FEDERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO CONSULT WITH THE COMMUNITIES

Beginning in January1998, the Cree negotiator Dr. Ted Moses, and his team will be in each community to continue consultations with the communities and Cree entities on the priorities for the federal negotiations. The federal negotiations concern all federal obligations to the Eeyouch under the Canadian Constitution including but not limited to those set out in James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Matters such as the development of a new relationship with the Federal Government. Cree rights in the offshore and the proper implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement are subject to the present process of discussion. Issues such as the funding of the Cree Trappers Association, economic development, contract and employment priorities, policing, environmental protection, adult training, youth initiatives, self-government, housing, community development and others are all on the table.

The chiefs and councils will organize the consultations in each community. Ask for the times and places when the negotiation team will be in your community. If you have any questions on the process call **Dr. Ted Moses at: 514-232-3104**

Grand Council of the Cree (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

We will not forget them

The tragic death of our friend, James A. Shecapio, and that of his daughter, Amanda, brought news that was very difficult to accept. We had lost two very special and dear people, and so unexpectedly. IT seems somewhat impossible to believe.

We might wonder what James, himself, would have counseled us in dealing with our loss. He taught me no matter how difficult the obstacle in your life, you can overcome it, you can deal with it in a good way. His loss will be particularly difficult to overcome. It is the loss of two young people, so full of promise, who also taught us to love, to protect and cherish friendships, and to use these to help overcome obstacles. We have perhaps lost the person, but not his friendship.

James was a key figure in much of my own development. I owe him a great deal. It was James who introduced me to the Youth Council in 1988, where he nominated me; it made me feel proud and honoured. With the help of his support, I was elected.

I then had the opportunity and privilege to work and learn under his leadership for four years, first at the Mistissini Youth Council, as a Youth Council member, and then as Youth Chief for one years and finally on the Cree Nation Youth Council and its Executive Committee for two years.

In 1994, when the elections for our local Council took place, I nominated James for Chief of Mistissini. Looking at what he has already accomplished, how he worked, how he got things moving, I felt he would make a fine Chief. It was not his time; now, it will never be. That is the wisdom of our People, and he accepted it. He continued to work with a strong mind and his full determination to help us deal with our many struggles. He contributed his talents to a number of organizations, the Cree Eeyou Astchee Commission, the Health Board, the Cree Nation Youth Council, and others. This was typical of James: he never have up, he saw obstacles as a chance to learn and develop, to become stronger.

What did we learn from James? I think we learned to respect ourselves, as youth and adults. We all knew how confident James was in us, as Cree Youth: He believed in his heart that we could do anything. He helped me to believe in myself. We also learned to hope, to hope that the future would be better because we would make it better, and we could do this if we wanted to do it. He did, he made a difference: He was a living example of what he taught us. And, he showed us no matter how difficult, there was room for fun, and joking, and laughter. The Crees are a joyful people. We all recall his sense of humour, and his jokes, even when we were feeling stressed.

I imagine that we can learn one final thing from James' all too sudden departure, and that is a lesson he taught us, himself, even in his death. That lesson is that we should value, cherish and protect friendships, at all times, in case they are interrupted by a greater force, and our friend departs without ever knowing how much we value him or her.

James and Amanda have gone to God and His Kingdom. We will not forget them. I know already that I will think of him, feel him inside, in my heart. He will speak to me when I am wrestling with a major challenge, and his voice will remind me of how he could deal with difficulty. When I am impatient or selfish in a friendship, I will think of him and his capacity to give and to care. And when I think of giving up, I will remember how he would surely have wanted us to get on with our life, making use of all the good things he shared with us, and completing some of the work to which he contributed so much, for us. We owe this to him, our friend. James and Amanda's spirit is always with us. We thank you, James.

Ashley Iserhoff, Mistissini

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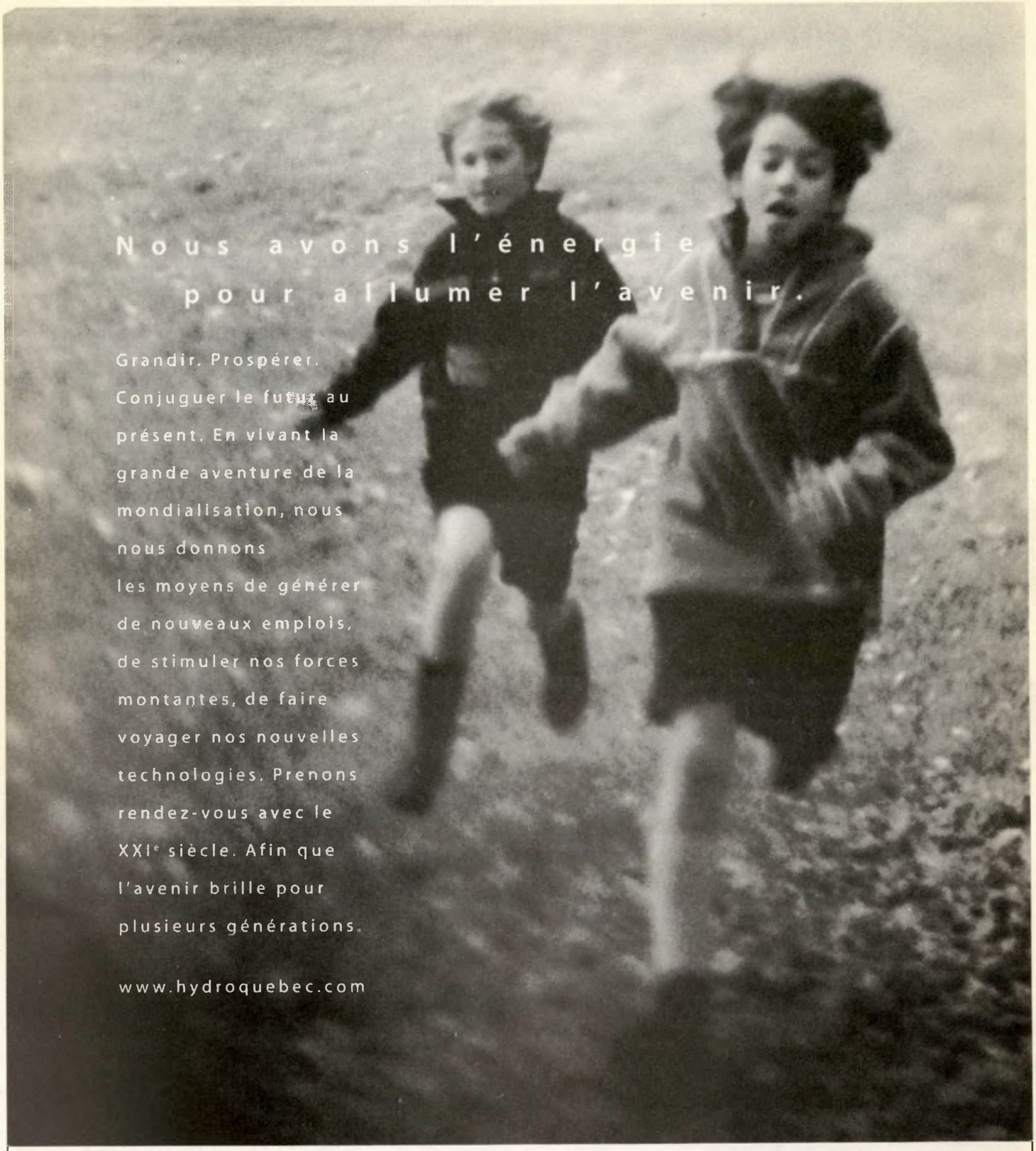
Marc, Martin and all the Employees of Excellence Sports would like to take this opportunity to thank all their customers for their support throughout the year. We wish you HAPPY HOLIDAYS!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Une énergie nouvelle

Stop the silence...

Hello! It's me again, and it's not over...

First of all, I would like to thank you for printing my messages which could be very helpful for a lot of people. Also, I would like to congratulate you for the progress you have made at editing The Nation. What a change to see beautiful faces such as the one on the cover of #24 of October 24th. What a change from July's cover page of Bouchard's face (or was it something else...) This last one should have been reserved for this last Hallowe'en issue. Well, maybe next year... (Chretien would be a good one too). About issue #24, one more thing. I don't mean to criticize but you made it so Cosmopolitan-like that people could be confused and wonder why the magazine is free. That's nice but don't risk losing the cachet of The Nation's content...

Alright, now I'd like to get straight to the point which is the one of "Communication." Talking, opening up. A lot has been said, a lot has been brought out in the open. Too many things are kept in the closet and by this I mean very important matters. "People (mostly young ones) are afraid to talk." This is a major problem to the personal evolution of each and everyone. Further on I'll explain some of the reasons why I decided to write on this particular subject but first I'd like to emphasize some facts and please follow me on this one...

There are good and bad critics but most people will agree that the bad ones are on the table more often than the good ones. Why? Some will think because it's easier to put down others when you already feel low. It makes them feel higher, then better... for a while... Most people are afraid of facing other people. When something goes wrong or when someone they thought to be a friend, a lover, a parent, a teacher, etc. does or says something that may directly or indirectly affect them, they are afraid to go straight to them and ask for an explanation. Or sometimes they do, but with much anger, which isn't the right way to straighten things out. Silence within itself is a "silent killer."

Much too often, people opt for backstabbing others, very often for no reason. Because very often, confronting others is too difficult. Who knows what will happen? Will I get hit? Will I get screamed at? Will I make myself enemies? Will I look like a fool? Will I get laughed at? Will I be the laugh of the town? Will it make me lose my friends?

The young ones are "afraid" of just about everything and that is a fact. They are afraid, they are insecure, they lack self-confidence, they're afraid of talking, of telling the "truth." Most of them live in total denial, and why is this happening? Because they don't really have someone who they can really trust or rely on. They are again afraid of betrayal and of being backstabbed. Because of a low self-esteem for themselves, some young ones will try anything to rise up. They'll sleep around (my friends all do it), they'll get drunk, get high and try most of the things that are supposedly forbidden but still available when and any time they want it. They have never learned how to say no! And that again derives from a whole educational process. A lot of very young girls have been raped but they don't even know that they were (yes, it's true).

Because they did not say "no," the bummers think that the little girls agreed. Those same little girls never said a word because, again, they're afraid.

Again, I know of some girls who have been treated very badly by some guys. Some were battered and some are under their boyfriend's or even girlfriend's total control. They are stocked, jammed. There is for those victims "no way out." Let me tell you that there are plenty of depressed young people, some even more than an older person. It just doesn't show because he or she looks young.

Some girls or boys think that because they go out with someone, they possess them, and no matter how much the other person who feels possessed wants out of the relationship, the other doesn't and won't let go. They keep invading the life, the privacy (what's left of it), of their supposed to be loved ones and they keep on choking and choking until the wedding day... Oh yes, a whole marital life goes on after that again. Why? Because the boy or the girl never said, "NO, I need my space, I need to breathe, I need some freedom." Or again, and that is very politely if the person in question does not understand: Please get the hell out of my life, get yourself someone new for a while, if you can't find one then go for a trip. Or just leave me alone for a while. I need to think, to enjoy life on my side, let me be myself...

Affirm yourselves, say what you have to say and don't be afraid. Too many mistakes and ruined lives have been cause by keeping "silent."

Imagine the children born from a relationship that was first of all based on control (which is a form of violence). How can they be the product of real "Love"? To all the boys and girls as well as to all the unhappy controlled couples out there: Wake up! There's still time and "SPEAK UP." Remember, you have one life to live and it's your own, no one else's. If you want your children or if you expect to have some one day, make sure that you are happy first of all 'cause if they see that you are not, they won't be either.

Also, if you have anything that prevents you from being happy (past life, whatever...), find someone you trust and get it all off your chest, clear out your mind and your acts before you make any major decisions which could jeopardize your life and your future. Remember that if you have ever been raped, molested, beaten up, abused and you still keep it a secret, say it, write it, do anything to feel better and regain your self-esteem. No one has a right on your life but the Creator and yourself. Start anew. Never be afraid of the impact or of being hated by those who've abused you. Think about it. Those who do or did you wrong weren't afraid to do so. So why should you? Time to get even. Be strong, the next generations will need a lot of strength and that all begins with words... We need strong leaders such as Sitting Bulls, Pontiacs, Rolling Thunders...

If anyone wishes to reply or has no one to talk to for comfort, I can try to help.

Dr. Truth
Whapmagoostui
J0M 1G0

Mascarade

✡ Balloons ✡ Costumed Delivery ✡
✡ Room Decoration ✡
✡ Clowns ✡ Invitation Cards ✡

368, 3e Avenue, Val d'Or
825-3383

Suzie Caouette
owner

LES MINES

INMET

The Troilus Project is a division of Inmet Mining Corporation, a Canadian mining company engaged in exploration, development and processing of base and precious metals internationally.

The Troilus Project is situated 175 Km north of Chibougamau and is accessible by way of the Route du Nord. The employees will work on a 4-3 or 7-7 shift schedule and will be provided with room and board at its first-class camp on site. The company is presently searching for candidates to fill positions at its Troilus Project, an open-pit gold mining operation.

1. THE POSITION: WELDERS

The Welders operate welding equipment to weld ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Some secondary school is required although relative work experience may compensate for formal education;
- Trade school in welding is an asset;
- Three to five (3-5) years welding experience in the mining field is preferred;
- Trade certification is an asset;
- Basic knowledge of French or English

MAIN DUTIES:

The Welders perform some or all of the following duties:

- Read and interpret blueprints or welding process specifications
- Operate manual or semi-automatic welding equipment to fuse metal segments using processes such as gas tungsten arc (GTAW), gas metal arc (GMAW), flux-cored arc (FAW), plasma arc (PAW), shielded metal arc (SMAW), resistance welding;
- Operate manual or semi-automatic flame-cutting equipment;
- Operate brazing and soldering equipment;
- Operate metal shaping machines such as brakes, shears and other metal straightening and bending machines;
- Perform necessary mechanical duties to accomplish task;
- Utilize and maintain the local exhaust system;
- Perform other related duties.

THE CONDITIONS:

Troilus Project offers competitive wages and a comprehensive benefits package. The positions are open to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages and promotes Cree hiring. Inmet thanks all applicants for their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested candidates are asked to forward their résumé, at the latest, January 5, 1998 to:

Troilus Project
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Québec)
G8P 3A9 **Attention:** Human Resources Manager
Reference no (The Position Title): Welders (Posting no. 024)

2. THE POSITION: MOBLIE EQUIPMENT MECHANICS

The Mobile Equipment Mechanics maintain and repair the mine equipment such as off-road trucks, excavators, hydraulic drills, dozers, backhoes and loaders, etc.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Some secondary school is required;
- Completion of a three (3) year mechanical college program is an asset;
- A combination of work experience in the trade, and some high school, college or industry courses in heavy equipment repair may compensate for mechanical college program;
- Basic knowledge of French or English.

MAIN DUTIES:

The incumbents will perform some or all of the following duties:

- Maintain and repair mobile mining equipment to assure maximum performance and inspect equipment to detect faults and malfunctions;
- Diagnosis faults and malfunctions;
- Adjust equipment and repair or replace defective parts, components or systems, using hand and power tools;
- Test repaired equipment for proper performance and to ensure that work meets manufacturer's specifications;
- Clean, lubricate and perform routine maintenance work on equipment;
- Perform necessary welding duties;
- Perform other related duties.

THE CONDITIONS:

Troilus Project offers competitive wages and a comprehensive benefits package. The positions are open to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages and promotes Cree hiring. Inmet thanks all applicants for their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested candidates are asked to forward their résumé, at the latest, January 5, 1998 to:

Troilus Project
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Québec)
G8P 3A9 **Attention:** Human Resources Manager
Reference no (The Position Title):
Mobile Equipment Mechanics (Posting no. 025)

Cont'd from page 15

ment to give up its fiduciary obligations over Aboriginals and their lands. We are afraid that will cause great harm to the Aboriginal peoples. The communities will just end up receiving welfare payments and all the monies will be grabbed by the provinces before it gets to the communities.

We succeeded in pushing for a process where Aboriginal leaders will be consulted on off-loading of federal programs. In the consultations across Canada, you and I know that Quebec has not participated in that. (Premier Lucien) Bouchard has avoided establishing any consultations with not only First Nations but also the people of Quebec.

Meanwhile the reality is there are consultations taking place across Canada. We will make sure we are part of those consultations. We were able to do that so we have a foot in the door.

On these national issues, a Cree on his trapline might feel, "What has this got to do with me?" I think that underlines the biggest problem of all. The policies underlying extinguishment. Powers being given to provinces. Where the provinces supposedly have jurisdiction over the land and natural resources.

If you want change in what I am talking about, you cannot just approach a mining or forestry company. These laws and policies bind them. I do not believe the laws are written in stone. Man made these laws, man can break these laws. The changes will not take place unless we pressure to make. I see this as a long-term thing. It might not be felt at the local level but if we did not do it we would be irresponsible. It would undermine all the work we have done so far.

The Memorandum of Understanding of 1995 was the beginning of the process of Cree negotiations with the provincial government. Now a new round of Cree-Quebec talks has started known as the "Bouchard Process." Are you satisfied with the results of what we have been getting from Quebec, if we've been getting anything?

The results will determine what happens, once the proposals of the specific projects have been given to the cabinet. That is being prepared. Unfortunately, the Cree Nation itself and the communities are desperate. They want immediate things right away. But being on the other side, on the front lines, there have been changes in government that make it very difficult. We have had change from Parizeau to Bouchard. We've had change from David Cliche to deputy minister Andre Magny. There was a change from Magny to Robert Sauve. The Crees meanwhile have been consistent. I'm still the Grand Chief, Chief Diamond is still the negotiator. Our positions haven't changed.

But I think following the meeting with Bouchard in Waswanipi, we took them to task. We feel that if the government is sincere in dealing with First Nations, specifically the Crees, it has to show and deliver tangible results. I believe that's very close. Before Christmas we should have at least an indication as to the status of the projects that have been submitted, of the regional issues we have identified. At the same time we have negotiations with the government of Quebec on policing, education, health, income security and the like. That's what we agreed upon, that there would be parallel negotiations. We have to maintain them.

At the same time we've had discussions with the federal government. We have a main steering body composed of the chiefs, so you have to give it time. I think people are impatient but I still feel there will be something that will be forthcoming. I think some people will be surprised at what's coming.

LES MINES

INMET

The Troilus Project is a division of Inmet Mining Corporation, a Canadian mining company engaged in exploration, development and processing of base and precious metals internationally. The Troilus Project is situated 175 Km north of Chibougamau and is accessible by way of the Route du Nord. The employees will work on a 4-3 or 7-7 shift schedule and will be provided with room and board at its first-class camp on site. The company is presently searching for candidates to fill positions at its Troilus Project, an open-pit gold mining operation.

3. THE POSITION: ELECTRO-MECHANIC

The Electro-mechanic inspects tests, dismantles and performs electrical and mechanical repairs.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Completion of a College diploma in electro-mechanics;
- A technical course in electrical maintenance;
- Three to five (3-5) years experience is required;
- Trade certification (Licence C) is an asset;
- Thorough knowledge of mechanical and electrical principles;
- Basic knowledge of English and French;
- Knowledge of preventive maintenance and electrical systems management is an asset.

MAIN DUTIES:

The incumbent performs some or all of the following duties:

- Receives or prepares maintenance and repair procedures necessary for assembling dismantling, control and testing of compenents and equipment;
- Localizes all kinds of electrical or mechanical failures;
- Dismantles, inspects, repairs or replaces the defectives parts and wiring on electrical equipment;
- Will be required to work in the shop and on the mine site;
- Performs mechanical and electrical work related to buildings;
- Performs other related duties.

THE CONDITIONS:

Troilus Project offers competitive wages and a comprehensive benefits package. The positions are open to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages and promotes Cree hiring. Inmet thanks all applicants for their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested candidates are asked to forward their résumé, at the latest, January 5, 1998 to:

Troilus Project
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Québec)
G8P 3A9 **Attention: Human Resources Manager**
Reference no (The Position Title): Electro-Mechanic (Posting no. 026)

Meilleurs voeux de la Ministre Jane Stewart

Cette période spéciale de l'année nous offre une chance extraordinaire de réfléchir au passé et de prévoir, avec un regain d'optimisme et d'énergie, les défis de l'année à venir.

En tant que nouvelle ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien, je reconnais que la relation historique que le Canada entretient avec les peuples autochtones à trop souvent été paternaliste. Cependant, au cours des mois où j'ai géré ce portefeuille, j'ai vu plusieurs exemples de nouveaux rapports établis entre les peuples autochtones et le gouvernement fédéral - des rapports qui appuient les collectivités autosuffisantes et saines. Plusieurs autres occasions d'établir ce partenariat fort et fructueux se présenteront. Elles nous aideront à atteindre nos objectifs communs, plus particulièrement celui de bâtir, pour les enfants et les jeunes autochtones, l'avenir qu'ils méritent.

Le Rapport de la Commission royale sur les peuples autochtones (CRPA) constitue une base idéale sur laquelle les peuples autochtones et le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien (MAINC) peuvent créer de nouvelles relations. Ce rapport nous fournit à tous un contexte détaillé à partir duquel nous devons progresser.

Informé par les aperçus de la Commission ainsi que par les informations fournies par les Premières nations, les Inuits, le secteur privé et les partenaires provinciaux, le gouvernement fédéral élabore actuellement un plan qui influencera la façon dont il aborde les problèmes que les peuples autochtones doivent surmonter. Je veux que vous sachiez que le gouvernement fédéral s'est engagé à améliorer ses relations aves les peuples autochtones en unisant les principes de compréhension et de repsect, de partenariat, de transparence, de responsabilité et de solidarité.

C'est tragique de constater que plusieurs peuples autochtones du Canada continuent à vivre dans des conditions se situant bien en dessous de celles que les autres Canadiens considèrent comme élémentaires. Pourtant, des changements positifs se préparent avec la collaboration des entreprises autochtones prospères de même qu'avec l'augmentation des programmes sociaux, de l'éducation et de la santé conçus par les peuples autochtones afin de satisfaire leurs propres besoins et de sensibiliser les gens à leur culture. Ensemble, nous devons travailler inlassablement à combler pour toujours l'écart séparant actuellement la qualité de vie des Canadiens autochtones de celle des Canadiens non autochtones.

Pour ce faire, nous avons besoin de chercher des alliances avec d'autres niveaux de gouvernement. En outre, nous devons nous assurer de l'appui et de l'engagement du secteur privé, du monde des affaires et, bien sûr, de chaque citoyen et citoyenne du Canada.

Je suis impatiente de travailler en étroite collaboration avec les membres des Premières nations, les Inuits, les aînés et les dirigeants nationaux afin de mettre à profit toutes nos possibilités. En nous soutenant mutuellement et en travaillant côte à côte, notre partenariat garantira d'atteinte de nos objectifs communs.

J'aimerais vous souhaiter à tous une joyeuse période des fêtes et j'espère que la santé et le bonheur vous accompagneront tout au long de la nouvelle année.

Sincèrement,

Jane Stewart

Jane Stewart

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

CANADA

Season's Greetings from Minister Jane Stewart

This special time of year offers us a wonderful chance to reflect on the past, and anticipate, with renewed energy and optimism, the challenges of the coming year.

As the new minister of Indian and Northern Development, I recognize that Canada's historical relationship with Aboriginal peoples was too often a paternalistic one. But in the months I have served in this portfolio, I have seen many instances of a new relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the federal government - one that supports self-sufficient, healthy communities. There are many more opportunities ahead for this kind of strong, productive partnership that will help us accomplish our common goals; most especially, to realize the kind of future that Aboriginal children and youth deserve.

The report on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) is an ideal basis on which Aboriginal peoples and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) can build new relationships. The RCAP report gives us all a very comprehensive context in which to move forward.

Informed by the commission's insights and by input from First Nations, Inuit, the private sector and provincial partners, the federal government is developing a plan that will influence the way in which it approaches the issues facing Aboriginal peoples. Building on the principles of understanding and respect, partnership, transparency, accountability, and mutual responsbility, I want you to know that the federal government is committed to improving its relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

It is a tragic fact that many Aboriginal peoples in Canada continue to live in conditions that fall far below the standards that other Canadians consider to be basic. Together, we must work tirelessly to forever close the gap now separating the quality of life enjoyed by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

To accomplish this, we need to seek alliances with other levels of government, as well as the support and commitment of the private sector, the business community and indeed, every Canadian citizen.

I am looking forward to working closely with First Nation and Inuit people, Elders and national leaders to make the most of all our opportunities. By standing together, and working side by side, our partnership wil ensure that we reach our common goals.

I would like to wish you all a joyous holiday season, and health and happiness for the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Stewart

Jane Stewart

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

CANADA

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien

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During this period of festivities we should unite our thoughts to bring a message of love, sharing and respect amongst the Nations of this world.

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"LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER"
"UN MÊME REGARD SUR L'AVENIR"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Chief and Council of the Nemaska First Nation.

On behalf of the members of the Nemaska First Nation, we wish to extend the warmest of wishes for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season to all.

Celebrate Nemaska
1977-1997
Let us honour the Old Poste for it's warmth and memories
Let us celebrate Nemaska for it's future and our dreams

THE CHIEF, COUNCIL AND STAFF OF THE CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE HOCKEY AND BROOMBALL TEAMS THAT WON IN THE ROUYN-NORANDA TOURNAMENT.

The Chief, council and staff of the Cree Nation of Mistissini would like to wish the entire Cree Nation a Merry Christmas.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Cree Nation of
Mistissini
187 Main St.
Mistissini, Quebec
G0W 1C0

Tel: 418-923-3461
Fax: 418-923-3115

continued from page 6

are uninformed about the goings-on of the specified community. If we cannot turn to our own Brothers and Sisters for support, then where do we go? As a people trying to become a strong recognized Nation, we need to support each other in every way possible. Even if it means sacrificing a great story that could possibly be harmful and derogatory. I understand that journalism is printing the news and "juicy" stories, but I also understand sharing... kindness... honesty... respect.

Bradley A.J. Georgekish
Wemindji Youth Chief

P.S. I do read *The Nation* on a regular basis, and credit must be given where credit is due... Great job, Ladies and Gentlemen. Just lay off the tabloid spoof quality you've picked up lately. Sarcasm is an enjoyable trait of humour, but let's not forget the pursuit of reporter respectability.

Cree is not Eeyou

Letter to *The Nation*:

To all Eeyouch,

I still have rights on Eeyou Astchee. So do my kids.

I don't understand all this fuss about Article 2.1 of the JBNQA. The article which states, "The Crees of Quebec... cede, release... their rights... whatever they may be..."

I am telling you, it doesn't concern me at all, nor my kids.

First of all, I am "Eeyou" not a Cree. The word "Cree" wasn't used in my home when I grew up. I heard that word for the first time at the beginning of the '80s. EEYOU as my grandfather told me, that is who you are. He never mentioned the word "Cree." The very fact that the letter "r" is used in that word proves that it's not an "Eeyou" terminology. It was foreign or unknown in our world.

Secondly, my parents or grandfather always referred to the so-called "James Bay" as "WINNEBAK," never James Bay. We are Eeyouch and we travel on "Winnebak" by canoe all the time.

Thirdly, there is no mention about our children "Eeyou Washitch," who were born after the signing of "that" agreement. So nobody could touch their rights on "Eeyou Astcheech."

Finally, an agreement is declared non-valid or null when one party doesn't or cannot understand what it is being agreed upon. Most of our people, I would say 99 per cent of them, couldn't understand, write or read English or French at that time. Sure, there were translators. I'm sure those people did their best, but let's admit, not every word in English can be translated in Eeyou. For example, how do you translate the word "development" in Eeyou terminology. As for myself, I still cannot translate it.

That was the main issue, "development." Another example, I remember people telling me-I was about 10 then-"when the river is blocked, we can cross it with only our rubber boots on." I would say the message did not go well. The scale of the work to be done was not understood, it was not imaginable. The agreement being signed was not known and understood by Eeyouch.

With all these facts, I say Eeyouch still have rights, "whatever they may be," on Eeyou Astcheech, on our good and beloved land, given to us by our Creator.

Watchiak.

Eeyou from Eeyou Astcheech

The Cree Nation of Eastmain

The holiday season is a time when we give thanks for our good fortune in life and share happy memories with family and friends. May the Creator inspire you with love and kindness all year long. We wish all our brothers and sisters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
From the Chief, Council and staff of the Cree Nation of Eastmain

CREE NATION OF EASTMAIN

Eastmain Band Council
P.O. Box 90
Eastmain, Quebec
J0M 1W0
ph: 819-977-0211
fax: 819-977-0281

Cree Nation of Chisasibi

The Cree Nation of Chisasibi would like to wish Merry Christmas to all the Cree communities.

We wish you the best of success for the New Year and a happy holiday season!

The Council of Commissioners, staff and students of the Cree School Board would like to extend their sincerest greetings for a Joyous Christmas to the Cree Nation of Eeyou Estchee. Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas to all, Please don't drink & drive.

OU DAA grocery

3 Highway 113, Waswanipi, QC J0Y 3C0

Food
Propane/Tanks
Gas Diesel
Lubricants
CO-MANAGERS: MARY ANN OTTER, MARY GULL
HARDWARE — MANAGER: RONNIE OTTER

OU DAA True Value Hardware

Trapper Supplies
Hunting & Fishing Supplies
Tools, Tents
Clothing
Appliances
Express Vu Satellite Dish

Phone: 819-753-2612
Fax: 819-753-2752

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations going out to Lee Ann Neeposh on the safe arrival of her daughter Serenitee Trista Jewel on November 24. Weighing at 8 lbs. and 3 oz. Lee Ann, please remember all our support is yours. We really do adore your precious bundle of joy. Reggie, Sophia, Darius & Terrance.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy 8th birthday to a sweet & special girl Nikki Baribeau on November 9. Hope you had fun at your party! We love you so much! Love, grandma Eva, Stephanie & Frances. xoxoxox

---

I would like to wish my cousin Hattie Pauline Gunner on December 28. May your birthday be as special as you are Happy sweet 16th birthday. I hope you'll have fun on your birthday And of course to my dad on the same day as my cousin. Once again happy birthday and many more to come. Love always, Melanie Gunner (OJ) Don't party to much Hattie or don't even party or else.....

Happy 2nd birthday to our special granddaughter Rosanna Mayappo on December 23rd. It seems like just yesterday you were brought home all wrapped up in your cozy little blanket. Now you're already getting into the kitchen cupboards and playing with the pots and pans. everyday you surprise us with new things you do. Just keep dancing to the song Coco Jumbo. We love you very much and hope your day is as great as you are. Hugs and kisses from your grandparents Mary and Thomas Miapo. We can't wait to see the look on your face on Christmas morning.

Birthday wishes to Jeffrey Miapo on October 9th and to Katrina Gilpin on November 25th. Hope you had fun on your birthdays from Mary, Thomas and family.

You have made a difference in my life...Among the Christmas cards and greetings sent to you this Christmas, I hop this one will mean something special to you. It's because I want you to know that you mean something special to me. you have touched my life in so many ways and you are such and important part of my world. I can honestly say I am a better person because of you...that is why when I wish you a wonderful and joyous Christmas it comes from deep within my heart, where you hold a very special place. You have been the greatest joy of my life. seeing the little things you do and just saying "mommy" makes me love you even more. You are the reason I look forward to each day. You have given me so much love, joy and laughter. There isn't anything I wouldn't t do for you. Hope you have a wonderful birthday! This goes out to my daughter Rosanna Mayappo who will be turning 2 years old on December 23. I love you. From your mommy..

Wow! Happy 11th birthday going out to Sonia Petawabano on December 2. Two more years then you'll be a teen! We love you so much and don't ever forget that! Love grandma Eva, Stephanie and Frances. xoxox

---

Birthday wishes goes to my cousin and friend Cindy Neacappo on Dec. 19 and to my other friend & mother Lillian on Dec. 22. Happy birthday and merry Christmas! From your friend Caroline.

Birthday greetings going out to brother Abel John Trapper whose birthday is on December 10, who is in Mistissini. With love and prayers, Linda & Gary Cooper, Waswanipi

---

Birthday wish to our uncle Abel John Trapper on December 10. Hope your birthday is special and many more to come. We love you so much. With love and prayers, your three little nephews Brandon, Mason, Josiah, and your very tiny niece Shania Cooper.

Happy birthday to a special family member and a good friend whose birthday is on December 12, Jack Happyjack, Waswanipi. With love and prayers, Gary, Linda and children Brandon, Mason, Josiah and Shania Cooper.

Birthday greetings to our grandfather Allan J. Cooper Sr. (Boss) on December 15. We love you so much Grand-Pa. WE wend you all our love for you With love and prayers, your grandchildren Brandon, Mason, Josiah and Shania Cooper. Waswanipi.

Birthday greetings to dad Allan J. Cooper (Boss) on December 15. We just want to say to slow down with the work you do with your trucks. Can you do a small favour for us (rest Boss). We care and love you. Your son Gary & Linda Cooper. Waswanipi.

Happy birthday to our granddaughter Deanna Salt. She will be celebrating her 4th birthday on December 10. Wishing you the very best of everything. We love you very much. With love Grandma and Grandpa Salt.

CLASSIFIEDS

Christmas birthday greetings going out to our daughter Joanne Blackned on Dec 25. Happy birthday and merry Christmas and many more to come and we love you. From mom and dad Thomas and Marjorie.

Christmas birthday greetings to our sister Joanne Blackned on Dec 25. From your two sisters Lorraine and Ashley Blackned. Wask. Happy birthday and merry Christmas.

On Dec 11, a birthday wish goes out, all the way to Val d'Or, to our daughter Maxine Mark-Stewart who is celebrating her 14th birthday and is also attending her second year of schooling in Val d'Or (Polyvalente). Way to go! From mom Liane, dad Redfern. N.B. Hope you'll enjoy going to Mtl for your Bday. We love you T.... xoxo

---

We the "Boboys" little bros of Maxine Mark-Stewart would like to wish a happy 14th birthday on Dec 11 in Val d'Or. We miss you. Love you & we can't wait to see you for the x-mas holidays. From the Boboys, Corey & Cayce. xxxooo

---

Toune, you know who you are. Happy birthday. From everybody that knows you by the name of Toune. We love you.

A belated birthday wish goes out to Tony Mainville who is celebrating his 19th birthday in Val d'Or. Wishes are from Eastmain. From Liane, Redfern & Boboys. xoxo

---

On Dec 5th, we'd like to wish a happy birthday to a special uncle in Eastmain whose name is Lindy who is celebrating his 33rd year. We would also like to take time to thank you for bathing us when mom wants a break and (auntie Georgette too). We love you from the Boboys in Eastmain. xoxo.

300-PERSONALS

"In every home, in every heart, the lights of friendship glow; and once again it's time to greet friends it's nice to know." Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. To Walter, Louise Bosum and family, OJ. Albert, Cheryl Trapper and family, Peter and Dorothy Trapper and family, Waswanipi. Reggie, Sophia Wapachee and family, James and Nancy Wapachee and family, Nemaska. Alfred, Phyllis Gilpin and family, Terry and Francine Moses, Eastmain. Maurice, Beulah Sam and family, Clarence, Christine Bearskin and family, George Mary Louise Pachanos and family, Chisasibi. Richard, Betsy Lebizay and family, Val d'Or. William, Annie Longchap and family, Mistissini. Love and friendship, Kitty, George, Jennica and Daylon.

I would like to wish all my family merry Christmas and a happy new year. You guys are very special to me mom and dad. I love you both with all my heart and also my grandparents in Mist and Waswanipi. From Hazel Icebound.

I would like to say hi to these people in Wask. Andrew Weistche, Norma JW, Diane salt, Lucy Salt, Christina Small, Delores Frank, Alvin Moar. I just wanted to say hi! I hop you are all doing great. Hey don't party too much you guys. I'll be seein ya. From a friend all the way from Wemindji. CJM.

Hello to Natacha Moar, Laura Wapachee, Jessica Wapachee, Miriam Moar, Marlene Shecapio, Pierrette salt, Patricia Hester, Vanessa Gilpin, Corrine Shash, Patricia Dixon, Cheryl Bearskin, Cynthia Cooper and all of those I forgot to mention, have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I hope I'll see you all in the near future. Friend always, Melanie Gunner. P.S. Laura, I still haven't received the letter. I'm still waiting.

I would like to say hi to a friend in Nemaska. So, buddy you received my letter. I'm sorry I didn't say good-bye. I hope you're doing great. When I left to Wemindji, it's like saying good-bye to my own sister, I miss You. I hope we meet again buddy. A friend who will always be! CJM.

Christmas greetings to these people since we cannot send them Christmas cards this year. From Chisasibi, Albert and Virginia Gilpin, Priscilla and Wallace House and family, Abraham and Emily Snowboy and family, Bobby and Elizabeth Snowboy, Loiuise Shem and family, Albert and Louisa House and Isabel Sealhunter. Wemindji, Isaac and Jane Visitor, Elizabeth, Elijah, Gale and the boys, Minnie, Daniel, Ruthie, George and family, Freddie, Clara and family, Jimmy and Mary Georgekish. Waskaganish, Bill and Emily Jolly, Mary and Clifford Hester, Jimmy and Laura Trapper, Jimmy and Daisy Moar, Samuel and Laura Blueboy. Waswanipi, Lawrence and Charlotte Dixon. Vald'Or, Robbie Tomatuk and Alice Saganash. Moose Factory, John D, Visitor and Josie Tomatuk. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from Mary and Thomas Mayappo and family in Eastmain

---

To all my relations ('1.O. & "Honda," this means you): MERRY XMAS!!!!!!

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Our second victim modestly left the "Claim To Fame" and "Title of your Autobiography" parts of the cree@large *interrogation sheet blank for us to fill in.*

Bertie Wapachee *came up through the ranks of the Cree youth movement's hierarchy, starting with security at the first World Indigenous Youth Conference in 1992. He held almost every post on the youth council until 1996 when he was elected Youth Grand Chief. Today he is also president of Cree Eeyou Productions Inc., the man responsible for bringing Cree youth together to record an album of pop songs.*

But it hasn't been that easy a road for this serious, thoughtful, soft-spoken Nemaska native. At 19 he found himself behind bars facing serious charges. "I didn't care anymore," he says of his incarceration. In a fateful stroke of luck and following a courtroom performance straight out of Midnight Express at his sentencing, the judge did the unthinkable. He showed mercy and Bertie walked out a free man.

When that 1992 conference in Quebec City ended, Bertie checked into a treatment center where, as he says, he received the "only diploma in my life." It was a way of "getting back respect from people and at the same time giving back respect," he says.

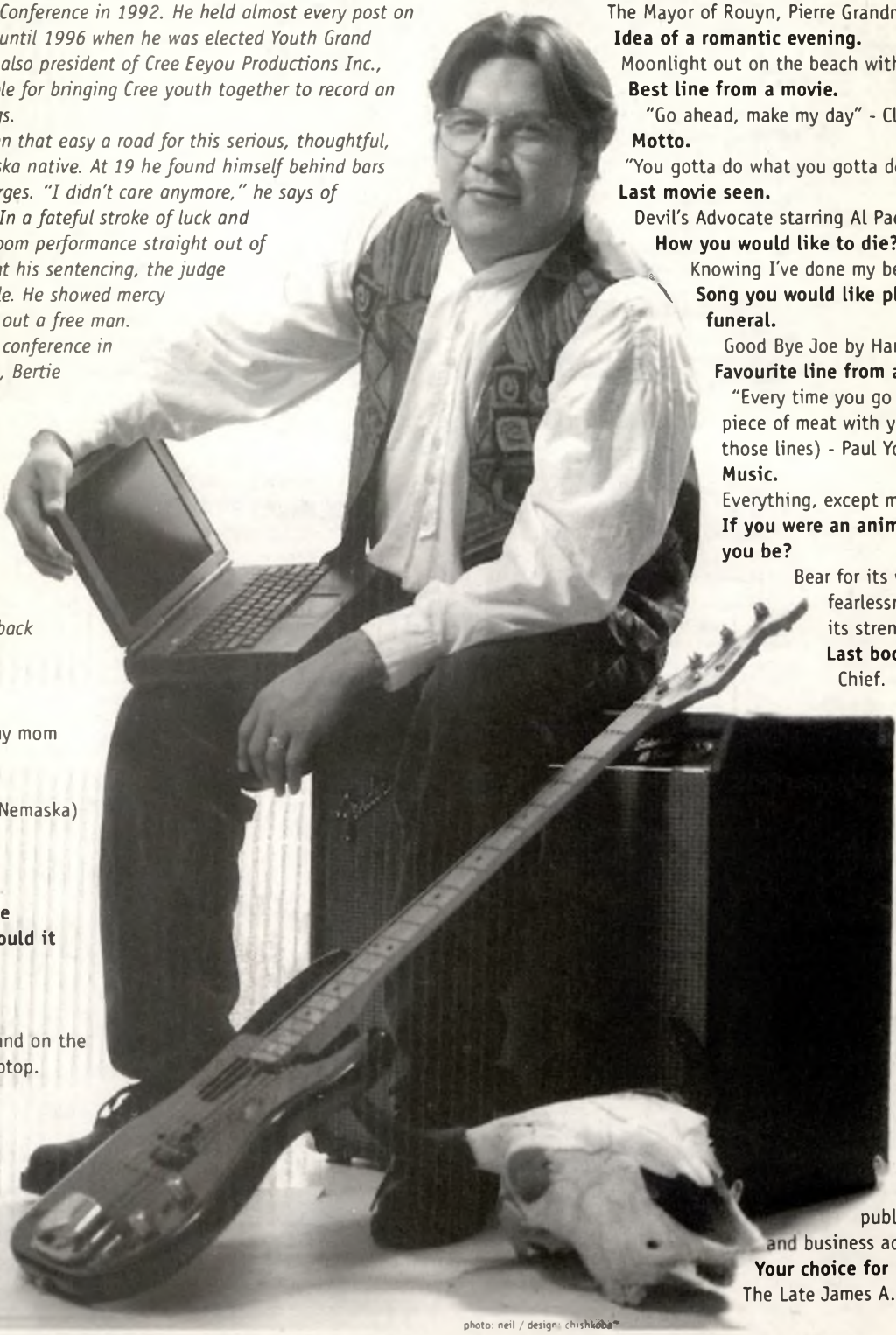

photo: neil / design: chishkoba™

First Memory.
In a swing with my mom singing a lullaby.
First job.
Shoe-boy at the (Nemaska) General Store.
First kiss.
French.
If you could clone anything what would it be?
My cowboy boots.
Daily routine.
Coffee, cigarette and on the phone with my laptop.
Macs or PCs?
PCs.
Greatest fear.
To wake up one day and find out that this life was all a dream.
Astrological Sign.
Capricorn.
Preferred travel destination.
Spirit world.
If you could meet Bill Clinton what would you say?
How does one become a Mas'n?
Your pick for Honourary Cree.
The Mayor of Rouyn, Pierre Grandmaître.
Idea of a romantic evening.
Moonlight out on the beach with GPW.
Best line from a movie.
"Go ahead, make my day" - Clint Eastwood.
Motto.
"You gotta do what you gotta do"
Last movie seen.
Devil's Advocate starring Al Pacino.
How you would like to die?
Knowing I've done my best with a smile.
Song you would like played at your funeral.
Good Bye Joe by Hank Williams.
Favourite line from a song.
"Every time you go away you take a piece of meat with you" (something along those lines) - Paul Young.
Music.
Everything, except my singing.
If you were an animal which would you be?
Bear for its wisdom, Wolf for its fearlessness and Wolverine for its strength.
Last book read.
Chief.
Most embarrassing moment.
Telling David Cliche to speak English on national TV when I wanted to say Cree.
Who were you in a previous life?
The arrow that killed Custer.
Favorite quote.
"To go where no Cree has gone before" - Paul Gull
Weaknesses.
Don't have a university degree in psychology, political science, law, communications, public administration and business administration.
Your choice for Cree of the year.
The Late James A. Shecapio, my friend.

La Chaumière

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Gaston and the staff of La Chaumière would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your support in 1997 and the upcoming year!

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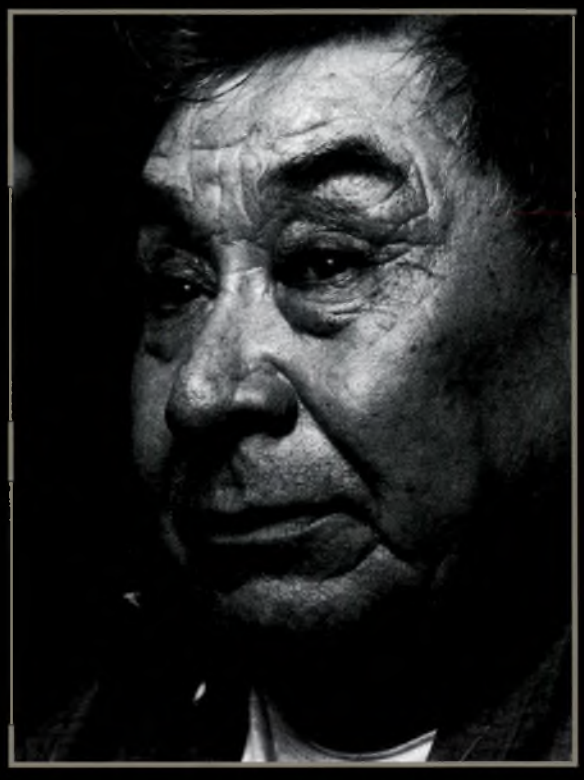
Announcing the 1998 Nation Calendar

Featuring 12 black & white portraits of Elders from all of the James Bay Cree Communities.



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James Bay Cree Elders

1998

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